



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2010

Media Contact:

Robert Vane
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of Mayor Greg Ballard – City of Indianapolis
rvane@indy.gov; (317) 696-9443
www.indy.gov - [Newsletter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Flickr](#)

Dan Considine
Manager, Corporate Communications
Citizens Energy Group
dconsidine@citizensenergygroup.com
(317) 927-4718

COUNCIL GIVES CITY, CITIZENS APPROVAL TO NEGOTIATE FINAL UTILITY AGREEMENT

Vote Puts Indianapolis' Neighborhoods Closer to Infrastructure Upgrades

Indianapolis, IN – In a bi-partisan vote, the City-County Council tonight approved an ordinance that permits the City to proceed with the final negotiation of the transfer of the water and wastewater utilities to Citizens Energy Group in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Additionally, the Council voted in favor of an ordinance that allows the City to begin the process of funding approximately \$425 million for infrastructure improvements.

“Approval of the MOU and increased infrastructure investment by the Council reinforces that we are moving in the right direction for the City and for the citizens of Indianapolis,” said Mayor Greg Ballard. “This is a transformational project – our streets, sidewalks, bridges and unsalvageable abandoned homes will benefit from the hundreds of millions of dollars generated by the transfer. I am confident this transaction will ensure ratepayers and residents a better community through mitigated rates and improved infrastructure.”

Once the City and Citizens Energy Group have thoroughly reviewed and finalized the transfer, the Council will review the definitive agreement and must provide final approval. If approved by the Council, the IURC will then review the proposal through its public process. It is hoped the IURC will approve the transfer by the end of 2010.

“Council approval of the MOU is a critical step in the process to ensuring professional management, excellent customer service and more stable rates for the water and wastewater systems,” said Carey Lykins, president and CEO of Citizens. “Over the past two months, we have held many public meetings to gain invaluable feedback on the MOU from Councillors, businesses and technical groups that will be used to shape the final utility agreement. As we move into the terms of the final agreement, we look forward to continuing dialogue about the benefits of the public charitable trust with the Council and the citizens of Indianapolis.”

Pending final approval from the Council, the transfer will provide the City with approximately \$425 million in revenue that will be invested in infrastructure improvements. On May 11th, Mayor Ballard previewed the planned investment in the City’s ailing infrastructure using revenue from the proposed transfer. The investment would create thousands of local jobs while rebuilding crumbling roads, sidewalks and bridges and demolishing unsalvageable abandoned homes.

“This proposal is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for our City,” City-County Councilor Mike Speedy said. “As the City and Citizens near the end of the due diligence process, it is important that we continue to analyze, negotiate and receive feedback on this transfer. I believe the MOU outlines a plan that will make a positive impact on residents

of Indianapolis and look forward to working with the Mayor's Office and Citizens as they work towards a final agreement."

The City and Citizens will continue to host and attend public meetings to discuss the proposed transfer of the water and wastewater utilities to Citizens. Representatives from the Mayor's administration and Citizens will attend town hall meetings hosted by City-County Councilors. Upcoming town hall meetings include:

- May 18, 6-7:30 p.m.: Councillor Ryan Vaughn's Town Hall Meeting
Broad Ripple High School, 1115 Broad Ripple Ave.
- May 19, 7-8:30 p.m.: Councillor William Oliver's Town Hall Meeting
Washington Park Community Center, 3130 E. 30th St.

For more information about the utility transfers or to submit feedback, visit www.indy.gov/utilities or call 317-327-4MAC.

###